New Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

4391. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new power projects proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of projects which have been approved by the Planning Commission during the current financial year;

(c) the stages at which these proposals are pending;

(d) the estimated cost and installed capacity of the projects; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite clearance of these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) 6 Projects namely A.P. Power House at Balimela (2x30 MW), Srisailam L.B. PH (6x150 MW), Singur (2x7.5 MW), Kothagudam Unit 10 (250 MW), Godavari (208 MW) and Jegurupadu CCGT-ST (216 MW) are currently under execution in Andhra Pradesh. In addition, Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic clearance for Vishakhapatnam (2x520 MW by Hinduja National Power Corp. Ltd.), Simhadri (2x500 MW by National Thermal Power Corp.), Priyadarshini HEP (6x36.9 MW) and Nagarjunasagar HEP Tail Pond Dam (2x25 MW).

(b) No project from Andhra Pradesh has been approved by Planning Commission during 1997-98.

(c) No proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh for approval of Planning Commission during 1997-98.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Scandal in URI Power Project

4392. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 2000-Cr. Scandal in Uri Power Project" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 27th February, 1997; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the French Consortium that undertook the work of the project, left the work midway;

(c) whether it is also a fact that its cost is Rs. 900 Crore more than the current international project cost;

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the details of agreement signed with French Consortium; and

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir. It has not been substantiated that there has been a scandal in execution of the Uri Hydro-electric Project (480 MW) in Jammu & Kashmir. The project was sanctioned in June 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores (March 1989 price level) on turn-key execution with bilateral foreign assistance from Sweden and United Kingdom. The completion period of the Project was six years from the date of start of works and the project was to be completed by November, 1995. Due to disturbed condition in the project site, there was a delay in completion of the project, which is now scheduled for May 1997. The latest estimated completion cost of the project is about Rs. 3300 crores. The increase of Rs. 1667 crores in the project cost is mainly due to exchange